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III. ACTIONS NOT AGREED UPON

In connection with NSC 5512 paragraph 14. g. "Exploiting the forces of nationalism and of Islam," courses of action 6 and 11 take cognizance of the importance of Islam in the Indonesian national scene and recognize the potential opportunities of opposing the forces of Islam to communism. There may be insufficient knowledge of Islam, both as a world religion, and as a political, cultural, and religious force in Indonesia, to develop courses of action with respect to Indonesia which would exploit Islam to the fullest extent possible. However, it was suggested that an Outline Plan of Operations might be prepared to provide operating guidance which would point out the opportunities and hazards in the U.S. relations with Moslem countries. It was felt that such a paper, with substantial operating guidance, would be of value, especially in view of the rising importance of the Arab-Islamic countries in the world political situation today and the possible role of Islam in affecting or modifying the political positions taken.

The Embassy strongly endorsed the proposal that an Outline Plan of Operations be prepared to provide operating guidance which would point out the opportunities and hazards in U.S. relations with Moslem countries. The working group recommends that an appropriate working group be instructed to prepare an Outline Plan of Operations on U.S. relations with Islamic countries similar to the draft Outline Plan entitled "Proposals Regarding U.S. Relations with the Theravada Buddhist Countries."

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